

I claim:

1. A system for a host to provide a tool for creating, instantiating, maintaining, and accessing user updateable Web sites of user updateable Web pages, said system comprising:

a host system;

at least one remote communications facility;

data storage means within said host system containing:

a. a set of user updateable Web page types corresponding to a plurality of features available in a user updateable Web site, and

b. at least one user updateable Web site type having a Home Web page linked to at least one instance of one of said user updateable Web page types;

computer processing means within said host for:

c. creation and maintenance at said host and storage of said at least one user updateable Web site type in said data storage, and

d. creation, selection and maintenance of an instance of said at least one user updateable Web site type and transmission of said user updateable Web pages of said selected instance to said at least one remote communications facility in accordance with criteria provided by said at least one remote communications facility;

a communications network associated with said host system, said communications network being controlled by said computer processing means to exchange data between said host computer system and said at least one remote communications facility; and

input-output means at said at least one remote communications facility for enabling at least one of:

e. for a user to specify selection criteria for said at least one user updateable Web site type and display of user updateable Web pages of said selected user updateable Web site type that meet said selection criteria,

f. for an authorized user to define an instance of said at least one user updateable Web site type for inclusion in said data storage,

g. for an authorized user to specify criteria for viewing, selection, and display of an

instance that meets said selection criteria,

- h. for an authorized user to maintain an instance and store said maintained instance in said data storage, and
- i. for authorized users to delete an instance from said data storage;

wherein said computer processing means creates and maintains said instances without requiring the user to have any technical knowledge of Web site implementation.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:

said host system and said at least one remote communications facility exchange data through the Internet; and

said computer input-output means is a Web appliance that employs a Web browser.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein:

said data storage further comprise parameters stored in a parameter file defining each said user updateable Web site type, said parameters being provided by a user community; and

said user updateable Web page types of each said user updateable Web site type comprise at least one user updateable Web page of a single type or a composite of types selected from the group consisting of:

- a. single updateable text block page,
- b. multiple updateable text blocks page,
- c. links page,
- d. index list and entries page,
- e. table page, uploaded file page,
- f. uploaded web page, integrated uploaded Web page, and
- g. Web quest page;

such that said selection of user updateable Web page types is made in accordance with said parameters.

4. The system according to claim 2, wherein:

each said user updateable Web page of each instance further comprises a view Web

page having both a fixed part and a variable part; and

said computer input-output means at said at least one remote communications facility further enable at least one of:

a. for an authorized user to update said variable part of at least one view Web page of an instance, and

b. for an authorized user to customize said fixed part of at least one update Web pages of an instance;

such that the updates redefine said instance stored in said data storage.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein each said view Web page further comprises a tailor made companion update Web page having input areas into which an authorized user enters updates to said variable part of said view Web page.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein each of said updates is selected from the group of consisting of:

a. text,

b. file name, and

c. URL;

such that said selection is made in accordance with said user updateable Web page type of the view page being updated.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein said file name identifies a file type selected from the group consisting of:

a. image,

b. word processor,

c. spreadsheet,

d. presentation,

e. audio,

f. animation, and

g. video.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the Web page identified by said URL includes zero or more embedded user HTML markers such that a user is able to update text at the zero or more locations of said HTML marker in said Web page when it is displayed by said Web browser.

9. The system according to claim 2, further comprising customization means to enable an authorized user to perform at least one customization with respect to an instance, said customization selected from the group consisting of:

- a. add Web page;
- b. delete Web page;
- c. rename Web page;
- d. change background of all Web pages;
- e. change divider lines of all Web pages;
- f. change graphic icons associated with Web pages;
- g. change fixed text of Web pages;
- h. customize Home Web page;
- i. change web page title in all Web pages;
- j. change e-mail name in all view Web pages and Home Web page; and
- k. delete e-mail facility in all view Web pages and Home Web page.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein said customization means comprise at least one customization Web page for each said customization type.

11. The system according to claim 1, wherein said computer processing means further provide tailored functionality for at least one type of user updateable Web page.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said tailored functionality is a multi-level index to the user updateable Web pages of all instances of a user updateable Web site type.

13. The system according to claim 9, wherein password protected access to all instances of at least one user updateable Web site type is provided for:

- each said instance;
- each view page of each said instance;
- each update page of each said instance;
- said customization means.

14. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the set of user updateable Web page types comprises a predefined set of user updateable Web page types that are defined in parameterized software.

15. A method of automatically creating, instantiating, maintaining, and accessing over a communications network, user updateable Web sites of user updateable Web pages, comprising:

- gathering user requirements for a plurality of features in a Web site;
- defining by a host system user updateable Web sites each having user updateable Web pages that correspond to gathered user requirements;
- maintaining data storage at the host which contain (i) a set of user updateable Web page types corresponding to the plurality of features required in a user updateable Web site, (ii) at least one user updateable Web site type having a Home Web page linked to at least one instance of one of the user updateable Web page types, (iii) at least one instance of a user updateable Web site type;
- the host system allowing access via the communications network to remotely accessing users to specify user selection criteria;
- the host system searching the maintained data storage based on specified selection criteria of remotely accessing users who have been allowed access via the communications network; and
- downloading via the communications network the results of the searching step to the remotely accessing user;

providing by the host system the ability for the remotely accessing user to select a view, update or customize action from the downloaded results;

the remotely accessing user selecting an action;

performing the selected action;

wherein if the action performed by the user was update or customize then the host system regenerates an instance of a Web, the host system stores the regenerated Web in the data storage and the host system downloads via the communications network the regenerated Web to the remotely accessing user.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the communications network is the Internet and the remotely accessing users employ a Web browser.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein:

the allowing step further comprises the step of enforcing password protection for access; and

the performing step further comprises the step of enforcing password protection for each action.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein:

the maintaining step further comprises the step of representing each user updateable Web page as a view Web page having a fixed part and a variable part and a companion update Web page for updating the variable part of each view Web page; and

the performing step further comprises the steps of

- a. downloading a view, update, or customize page to correspond to the action selected,
- b. uploading user input from an update or customize page.

19. A computer system comprising data storage and a tool for creating a user updateable Web site, said tool comprising:

a set of at least one stored user updateable Web page type, and at least one stored user updateable Web site type having user customization Web pages and user updateable

Web pages each represented by a view Web page and a companion update Web page that correspond to a plurality of user required features in a Web site;

an input-output means for enabling at least one of:

- a. for users to create an instance of said at least one user updateable Web site and store said instance in said data storage,
- b. for users to retrieve and display said view Web pages of an instance of said instance,
- c. for users to retrieve and display view Web pages, enter Web page updates to said view Web pages into said companion update Web pages, regenerate and store said instance in said data storage, and
- d. for users to retrieve and display said customization pages, enter Web site customizations, regenerate and store said instance in said data storage; and

a parameterized software program which generates said instance of a user updateable Web site type to correspond to said user required features and regenerates said instance to reflect said user Web page updates and Web site customizations;

wherein said parameterized software generates and regenerates said Web site without requiring the user to have any technical knowledge of how to implement a Web site and Web pages.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said input-output means is a Web appliance.

21. The system according to claim 19, wherein:

said computer system and said input-output means exchange data through the Internet; and

said input-output means employs a Web browser.

22. A method of automatically creating, instantiating, maintaining, and viewing user updateable Web sites of user updateable Web pages, comprising:

providing data storage and a tool for creating, instantiating, maintaining, and viewing a user updateable Web site, said tool comprising:

a set of at least one stored user updateable Web page type, and at least one stored user updateable Web site type having user customization Web pages and user updateable Web pages each represented by a view Web page and a companion update Web page that correspond to a plurality of user required features in a Web site;

an input-output device for enabling at least one of:

- e. for users to create an instance of said at least one user updateable Web site and store said instance in said data storage,
- f. for users to retrieve and display said view Web pages of an instance,
- g. for users to retrieve and display view Web pages, enter Web page updates to said view Web pages into said companion update Web pages, regenerate and store said instance in said data storage, and
- h. for users to retrieve and display said customization pages, enter Web site customizations, regenerate and store said instance in said data storage; and

a parameterized software program which generates said instance of a user updateable Web site type to correspond to said user required features and regenerates said instance to reflect said user Web page updates and Web site customizations;

gathering user requirements for a plurality of features in a Web site;

maintaining data storage at the host which contain the set of user updateable Web page types corresponding to the plurality of features required in a user updateable Web site and at least one instance of a user updateable Web site type;

allowing access for users to specify user selection criteria;

searching by the tool of the maintained data storage based on specified selection criteria; and

displaying the results of the searching step to the user;

the user selecting a view, update, or customize action from the displayed results;

performing the selected action by the tool;

the tool regenerating a Web where the action performed was update or customize;

the tool storing the regenerated Web in the data storage; and

redisplaying the regenerated Web to the user.